

Blunt Family Medals auction:- The Campaign Medals of Sir John Elijah Blunt and of his son Captain Osmond Donald Blunt.

These medals were inherited by the adopted Jenny Paulucci Blunt after the death of Lady Fanny Blunt in 1926. They were sold in auction in London in November 2020.

This information was kindly forwarded to me by Dr Michael Hinton of Tonbridge Wells.

Dr Douglas J Austin, ELY, Cambs.

Days of Sale:

Wednesday 18 November 2020
at 10.30 am and 3.00 pm

Thursday 19 November 2020
at 10.30 am and 2.00 pm

Viewing:

Nash House, St George Street, London W1S 2FQ

For the safety of our clients and staff during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and to maintain social distancing measures, viewing for this auction is strictly by appointment only.

Catalogue no. 110

Price £15

Enquiries:

David Kirk, James Morton or Menelaos Danellis

Cover illustrations:

Lots 770 and 771 (front); 1473 (back); 703 (enlarged; inside front); 762,1369,1266 (inside back)

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***The Impressive C.B. and Imtiyaz Gold Medal Group of Eight awarded to Sir John Elijah Blunt, H.M. Consular Service, who served as Chief Interpreter and Aide-De-Camp to Lord Lucan during the Crimean War, and later took up senior consular positions at Uskub, Adrianople, Belgrade, Salonica, and latterly at Boston between 1899 and 1902, comprising:**

The Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Civil Division, Companion's (C.B.) breast badge by Garrard, in 18 carat gold, bearing hallmarks for London dated 1871, with gold straight bar suspension and top bar;

Jubilee 1897, in silver, unnamed as issued;

Crimea, 1854-56, 4 clasps, Alma, Balaklava, Inkermann, Sebastopol (**J. E. Blunt. Esqre. Interpreter.**);

Turkey, Ottoman Empire, Order of the Medjidie, Fifth Class breast badge in gold, silver and enamels;

Turkey, Ottoman Empire, Imtiyaz Medal, in gold, 37.5mm width, reverse engraved (**J. E. Blunt**);

Turkey, Ottoman Empire, Imtiyaz Medal, in silver, 37.5mm width, reverse engraved (**J. E. Blunt**);

Turkish Crimea, 1855-56, British issue, unnamed as issued;

Turkey, Ottoman Empire, Russo-Turkish War, 1877, El-Gazi type;

Group swing-mounted upon bar, by Spink & Son, London, as worn, *about very fine to good very fine* (8) £6,000-8,000

C.B.: *London Gazette*: 30 August 1878 – 'Her Majesty's Consul at Adrianople'

SIR JOHN ELIJAH BLUNT (1832-1916) was born on 14 October 1832 at Adrianople (modern Edirne), Turkey, the son of Charles Blunt, Consul General at Smyrna, and Caroline Blunt (née Vitalis), Consul at Tinos. Educated at Dr. Greigs Private School, Walthamstow, and at Kensington Grammar School, he joined H.M. Consular Service in 1850, and after holding various consular appointments in Turkey, he was appointed Consul-General for the Vilayets of Salonica, Cossova, Janina and Monastir.

During the Crimean War Blunt served as Chief Interpreter to the Cavalry Division under Lord Lucan and acted as his Secretary. He was present at the battles of the Alma, Balaclava and Inkermann, but afterwards returned to more specific consular work. He married Fanny Janet Sandison during his time at Uskub (Skopje), the daughter of Donald Sandison, a businessman based in Constantinople. Lady Blunt later wrote several books, including *'My Reminiscences'*, which gives a detailed account of her life, and that of her husband.

In 1862 and 1868 he received the thanks of the President of the U.S.A. for services rendered to American citizens in the province of Adrianople, and was nominated for the position of Consul for Roumelia, but he was not permitted to accept the position. He was appointed as Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1878, and served as Consul-General for Salonica between 1879 and 1899 (during which time he received the Imtiyaz medal twice, in silver in 1890, and in gold in 1898), after which he was appointed Consul (with the rank of Consul-General) for the States of Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, residing Boston, between 1899-1902. He was knighted in 1902 and retired to Malta after more than 50 years of consular service. He was latterly appointed Officer of the Royal Order of the Saviour by the King of Greece in early 1907 (as reported by newspapers in July 1907). He died at Valetta, Malta, on 19 June 1916.

For awards to his son, see lot 737.



Reduced size

737

***The Campaign Group of Five** awarded to **Captain Osmond Donald Blunt, Connaught Rangers**, who served in the Sudan during the Dongola Expedition of 1896 and then during the expedition against Chief Mpezeni in 1898, and who was wounded in action at Gaberones on 12 February 1900 during the Boer War while serving with 'B' Squadron of the Rhodesia Regiment, comprising:

Queen's Sudan, 1896-97, in silver (**Lt. O. D. Blunt, 2/ Con: Rang:**);

Central Africa, 1891-98, single clasp, Central Africa 1894-98 with bar suspension (**Lieut: O. D. Blunt, Conn: Rangers**);

Queen's South Africa, 1899-1902, 3 clasps, Rhodesia, Relief of Mafeking, Transvaal (**Capt: O. D. Blunt, Lanc: Fus:**);

Turkey, Ottoman Empire, Order of the Medjidie, Fourth Class breast badge in gold, silver and enamels, reverse engraved (**Lieutenant O. D. Blunt. Connaught Rangers. 1896**);

Khedive's Sudan, 1896-1908, 2 clasps, Firket, Hakir (**Lieut. O. D. Blunt. Connaught Rangers. 1896.**);

The group unmounted and lightly toned, a rare combination, extremely fine and lustrous (5)

£2,500-3,000

Turkey, Ottoman Empire, Order of the Medjidie: *London Gazette*: 2 March, 1897 – 'in recognition of active and distinguished service before the enemy during the recent expedition to Dongola'

CAPTAIN OSMOND DONALD BLUNT (1870-1915) was born 17 November 1870, the son of Sir John Elijah [Blunt](#), H.M. Consular Service, and Lady Fanny Janet (née Sandison). He was educated at Oxford University, and received his first commission as a Second Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers on 22 March 1890. He transferred to the Connaught Rangers on 15 March 1893, and served in the Sudan during the Dongola Campaign of 1896, for which he received a Fourth Class Order of the Medjidie from the Khedive of Egypt. In January and February 1898 he took part in the expedition against the Paramount Chief Mpezeni of the Ngoni tribe, which defeated the Chief and his son near Fort Jameson in North-Eastern Rhodesia, and during the Boer War he served with Colonel Plumer's Force (medal roll states that he was seconded to 'B' Squadron of the Rhodesia Regiment, hence his rare Rhodesia clasp) and was wounded in action at Gaberones on 12 February 1900. He later joined the Lancashire Fusiliers for a time as Captain, and then served in the 5th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers as Captain, and died 20 March 1915 at Floriana, Malta, where he was afterwards interred with his father.

For awards to his father, see lot 726; for his relating miniatures, see the following lot.

General) for the States of Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, residing Boston, between 1899-1902. He was knighted in 1902 and retired to Malta after more than 50 years of consular service. He was latterly appointed Officer of the Royal Order of the Saviour by the King of Greece in early 1907 (as reported by newspapers in July 1907). He died at Valetta, Malta, on 19 June 1916.

For awards to his son, see lot 737.